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MAY 23 1928

EXPERIMENT STATION FILE

# MODOC NATIONAL FOREST CALIFORNIA



MODOC BATTLEFIELD MONUMENT

Erected and dedicated to the heroism of Gen. Edward R. S. Canby, other officers, soldiers, and pioneer settlers who sacrificed their lives on this battlefield during the Modoc War.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
U. S. FOREST SERVICE,  
CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

Region. 11





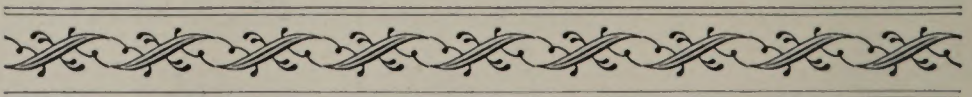
## NATIONAL FOREST VISITORS

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Free public use of the national forests is invited. Visitors are required to observe the following rules:

1. Be sure you have a camp-fire permit before building a fire on national forest land. The nearest forest officer will issue one to you without charge.
  2. Build small fires. Build them only where permitted.
  3. Before leaving a fire extinguish it with water and cover the ashes with earth.
  4. Be careful with lighted matches, cigar and cigarette stubs, and pipe heels.
  5. Keep your camp clean. Where garbage pits and incinerators are not provided, burn or bury all garbage and refuse.
  6. Do not pollute the springs, streams, or lakes by insanitary acts.
  7. Do not mutilate the trees or the signs or the improvements around camps.
  8. Observe the State fish and game laws.
  9. Do not hunt in the vicinity of forest camps.
  10. Drive carefully on mountain roads.
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HELP KEEP THE FORESTS CLEAN  
AND GREEN





# MODOC NATIONAL FOREST

## CALIFORNIA

The Modoc National Forest, embracing 1,475,759 acres of Government land in Modoc, Lassen, Shasta, and Siskiyou Counties, lies in the extreme northeastern part of California, bordering the Oregon line on the north and having for its eastern boundary the desert-like hills and plains of western Nevada. It derives its name from the local Indian tribe, called the "Moa Docks" by the Klamath Indians, the words meaning literally "southerner" and "near."

The Modoc country had a stormy early history and was not generally settled till the middle and late 70's. The paths of pioneers, following the emigrant road to the gold fields of California and the famous Oregon Trail to the Willamette Valley, diverged at a point in what is now Modoc County. Because of the number of Indian massacres occurring in the area now making up the Modoc National Forest, this country was known for many years as "The Dark and Bloody Ground of the Pacific." Evidences of the long occupancy of the territory by Indian tribes and their struggle against the white man's invasion are still to be found.

### ACCESSIBILITY

Almost the entire area of the Modoc National Forest is accessible by automobile. More than 1,000 miles of road, varying all the way from macadamized highways to 9-foot dirt roads cut through the timber, are



F-208185

Cedar Pass Road in the Warner Mountains, Modoc National Forest

maintained by the State, county, and Forest Service. Hundreds of additional miles of roads and trails, opening up large areas of virgin territory to the tourist, hunter, and camper, have been constructed in recent years by the Forest Service for fire-prevention purposes. The main artery of travel on which practically all the roads converge, is the State highway running from the

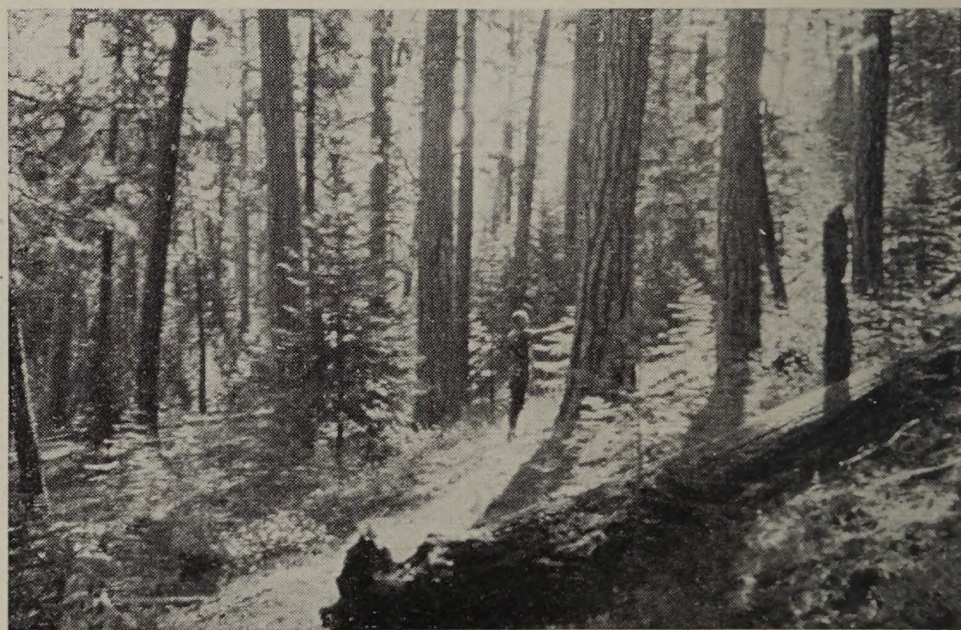


Nevada line to Redding, and known as the Redding-Alturas Highway. This road is open all the year, and the entire distance, 153 miles, can be negotiated in high gear by the average car.

Alturas, the county seat of Modoc County, is a thriving modern town of about 1,500 population. It is practically the geographical center of the Modoc National Forest and is reached by the Nevada-California-Oregon Railway, recently acquired and broad-gauged by the Southern Pacific, or from Sacramento Valley points over the Redding-Alturas Highway. Roads also reach it from Oregon and Nevada points on the north and east, and from Reno, Nev., and Susanville, Calif., on the south.

### FOREST RESOURCES

The Modoc National Forest contains approximately  $3\frac{1}{2}$  billion feet of merchantable Government timber. And on privately-owned land within the forest boundary there is  $6\frac{1}{2}$  billion feet of timber. Western yellow pine forms about 75 per cent of the total stand. Sugar pine, white fir, incense cedar, and other species make up the remainder. Logging operations have been confined to small circular sawmills, none of which cut more than 2 or 3 million board feet per year, but operations on a large scale are expected to follow the railroad development now in progress in this section.



F-203185

A typical yellow pine timber stand in the Modoc National Forest

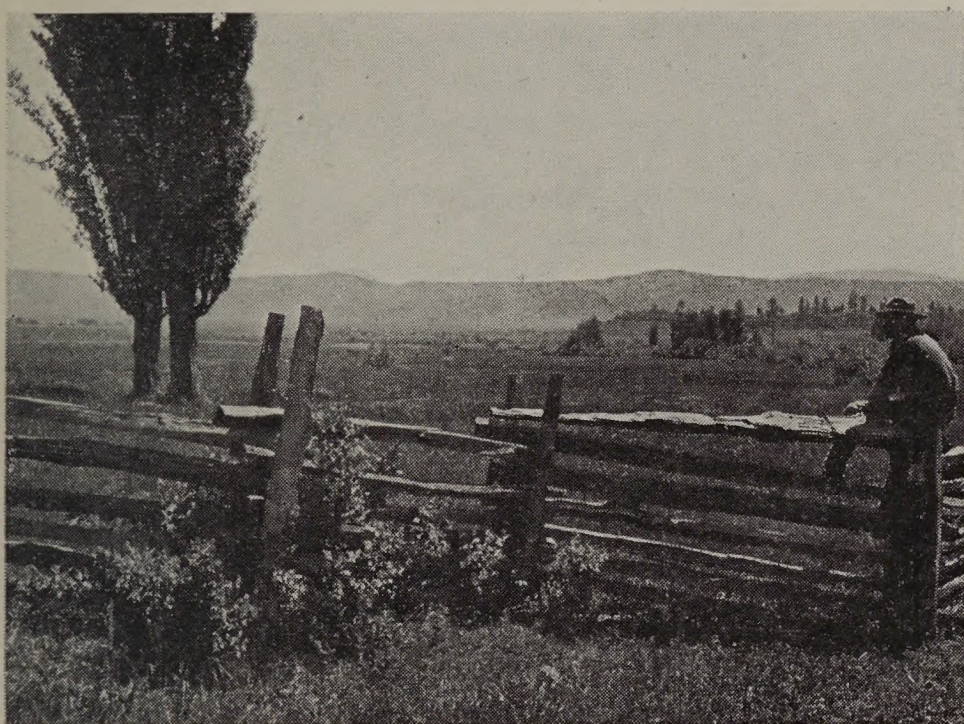
Before an extensive program of timber sales is started on any national forest, a careful survey is made of its timber resources and a plan of management prescribed which insures a constant supply of timber for the communities and industries dependent upon the forest. The mature timber is then sold under competitive bid at a fair price. All green timber to be cut is first marked by an experienced forest officer, and the removal of timber and the disposal of slash is also under his supervision, so that the least possible damage is

8-6168



done to the standing trees and young growth. In marking timber a sufficient number of selected seed trees is left on each logging unit to assure natural reforestation of the area and to form the basis of a future crop.

In addition to the stand of merchantable saw timber, the Modoc Forest contains what is probably the largest unbroken body of western juniper in the United States. This occupies a large plateau region known as the Devil's Garden, lying north of Alturas and the Pit River Valley, and covers about 300,000 acres. Though juniper wood is not suited for lumber, it is used extensively for fence posts and fuel. Experimental operations by a large pencil company have demonstrated the suitability of the wood for pencil purposes, and in time it will come into its own for this use.



Fertile valleys surrounded by mountains and plateaus are an outstanding feature of the Modoc National Forest

Though the Modoc Forest includes every type of mountain country, from peaks of 10,000 feet elevation to level plateaus of Western yellow pine timber, it is unlike most national forests in California in that it is interspersed with large valleys, the bulk of the forest lying at an elevation of less than 5,000 feet. The North and South Forks of Pit River, one of the chief feeders of the Sacramento and an important source of hydro-electric power, have their sources here, forming two large valleys of many thousands of acres. Goose Lake Valley, Surprise Valley, Round Valley, Big Valley, and Tule Lake Valley are all adjacent to the national forest. The land in these valleys produces a variety of agricultural crops, but the most important industry is stock raising.

Make sure it's a buck—if you can't see his horns, *she* hasn't any.





F-208188

Each year 85,000 head of sheep are grazed on the Modoc Forest ranges under the burro or blanket system of open herding

The Modoc is the leading grazing forest in California, furnishing range for approximately 85,000 head of sheep and 45,000 cattle and horses owned by some 400 permittees residing in the valleys adjacent to the ranges. The livestock industry is the commercial backbone of this section. It is estimated that 12,000 head of beef cattle, 70,000 lambs, and 1½ million pounds of wool are annually shipped to outside markets.



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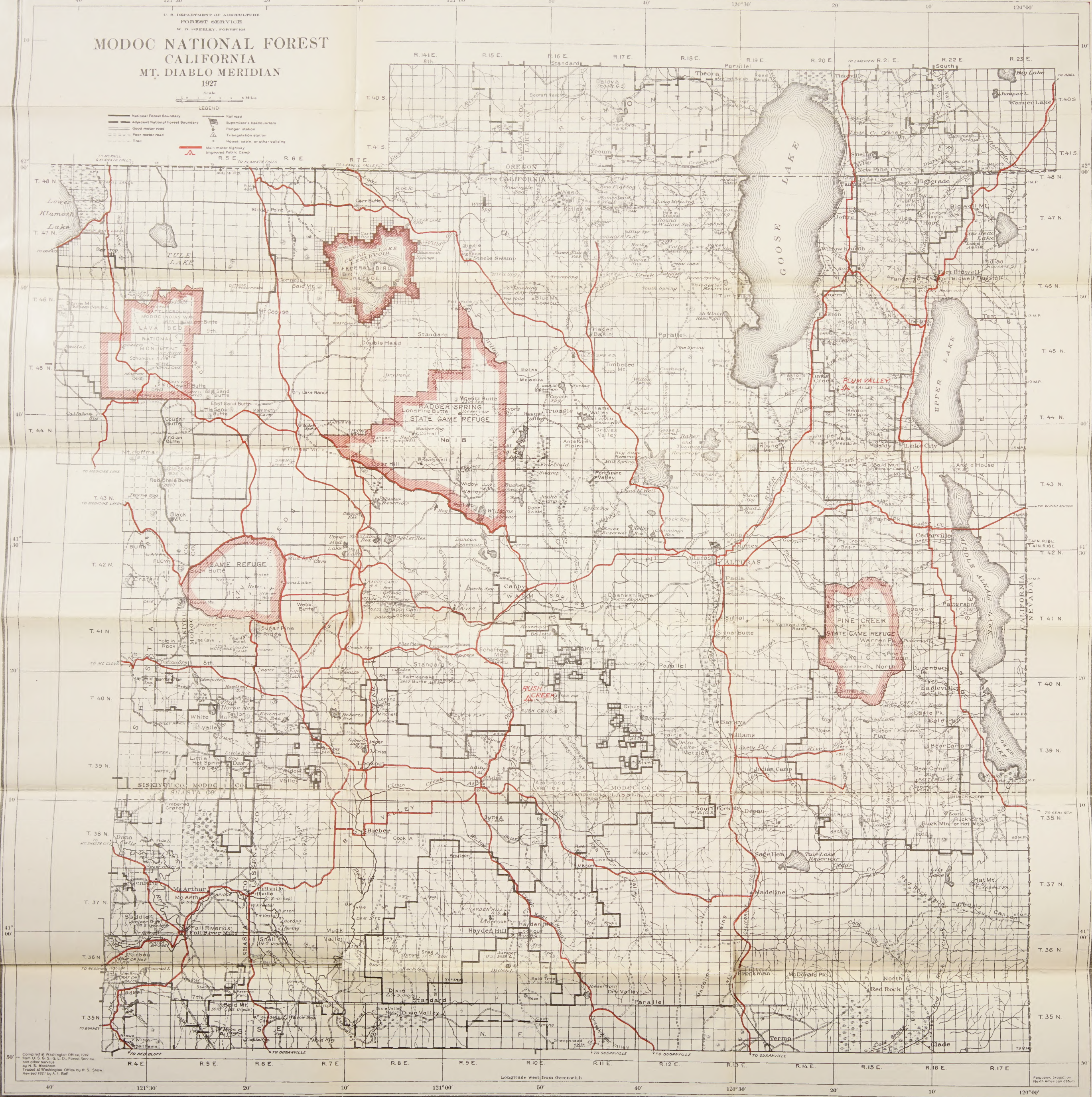
The Modoc is the leading grazing forest in California and supports 45,000 head of cattle and horses each season

Grazing on the forest ranges is so regulated as to protect and conserve the use of all national forest lands adapted to forage production and to perpetuate the local livestock industry through proper care and improvement of grazing lands. The issuing of grazing permits by the Forest Service is based upon the qualifications of the individual applicant. Local stockmen are given the preference in the use of the range. The number of animals, the season of grazing, the class of stock, the area to be grazed, and detailed rules for salting, bedding, etc., are determined and enforced by the Forest Service so as to develop, maintain, and utilize to the highest possible degree the forage resources of the forest. The judicious management of the forest range must continue in harmony with the desired protection and development of all



MODOC NATIONAL FOREST  
CALIFORNIA  
MT. DIABLO MERIDIAN  
1927

Scale 1:62,500  
LEGEND  
National Forest Boundary  
Adjacent National Forest Boundary  
Good motor road  
Poor motor road  
Trail  
Railroad  
Supervisor's headquarters  
Ranger station  
Triangulation station  
House, cabin, or other building  
Main motor highway  
Improved Public Camp





other resources of the forest. Forage and grazing allotments are also regulated so that there may be sufficient feed for deer within the three State game refuges in the forest.



F-186271

Dipping cattle for scab before driving them to national forest ranges

Twenty-five per cent of the revenue received by the Government from grazing fees, as well as from timber sales, special uses, and other resources of the Modoc National Forest, is returned to the State for distribution to the counties in which the forest is located for use as school and road funds, and an additional 10 per cent is expended by the Forest Service on roads and trails within these counties.

Be careful with your camp fire and matches—one tree will make a million matches, one match may destroy a million trees.



## CAMPING

The entire Modoc National Forest is open to camping. Improved public camp grounds are maintained by the Forest Service at Rush Creek, 9 miles from the town of Adin and at Pit River bridge west of Canby, both on the Redding-Alturas Highway; and at Plum Valley, 3 miles east of the village of Davis Creek, where one leaves the Alturas-Lakeview Road. There are also many other attractive sites throughout the forest where camps may be established along streams or close to springs of clear, cold water. In the western part of the forest, which is noted as a deer-hunting country, water holes are few and far between, and tourists are advised to carry water for use when it is necessary to make a dry camp. As in all mountain regions, the nights in the Modoc Forest are pleasantly cool, no matter how high the temperature may range during the day.



F-215292

Hunters' camp in the Lava Beds region, Modoc National Forest

The Forest Service maintains several hundred miles of telephone lines on the forest, all connecting with a central station at Alturas. The use of Government telephones at outlying points is free, and in case of emergency, campers can get in touch with the outside world.

## FISHING

Bass and catfish are plentiful in Pit River, and eastern brook, rainbow, and Loch Leven trout are found in the streams and lakes throughout the forest. Practically every stream in the Warner Mountains division of the Modoc Forest affords good fishing. Blue Lake, Lost Lake, and Clear Lake in the southern end of the Warners, and Cave and Lily Lakes in the extreme north end are well stocked with game fish.

In addition to the natural lakes, there are many reservoirs or artificial lakes, and these have been stocked with trout by the State Fish and Game Commission and local sportsmen in cooperation with the Forest Service.





### FEATHERED FRIENDS

[Photo by Paul J. Fair]

The Clear Lake Bird Refuge in the Modoc National Forest is the nesting place of thousands of gulls, ducks, geese, pelicans, cormorants, and other species of waterfowl

### HUNTING

Ducks and geese are plentiful all through the Modoc country. Quail, both mountain and valley, and grouse and sage hen, especially the latter, are found in great numbers. The Modoc Forest however, is principally noted for its mule deer.

Forest officers estimate the number of Rocky Mountain mule deer in the Modoc Forest at 16,500 head, about 75 per cent of the total number existent to-day in the State of California. These animals are much larger than the blacktail species, bucks often weighing, fully dressed, from 300 to 350 pounds. Their antlers sometimes measure 36 inches from tip to tip.

Though deer are found in all parts of the Modoc National Forest, they are more plentiful in the Happy Camp district west of Canby and north of Big Valley, in the northern end of the Devil's Garden district west of Goose Lake, and in the Rocky Prairie country southwest of Alturas. From 500 to 1,000 or more bucks, which represent the biggest game-animal hunting west of the Rockies, are bagged annually.

During the deer-hunting season, hunters from all parts of California and neighboring States enjoy a vacation in the Modoc Forest and the thrill of killing a big mule-deer buck. Comfortable camps may be maintained by deer hunters, and automobile service and supplies of all kinds are available at Alturas, Cedar-

Leave a clean camp and a clean record. Unburied garbage, crippled game, and broken laws are poor monuments for tourists and sportsmen to leave behind them.

Help to enforce the State game laws. Only a "game hog" will take more than his legal share. Report game violations to the nearest forest officer or game warden.



ville, Adin, Lookout, Fort Bidwell, and other towns adjacent to the forest. Well-signed roads traverse the forest in every direction, and it is almost impossible to be more than 3 or 4 miles from a passable automobile road even in the outlying sections.

Three State game refuges are located within the Modoc Forest—1B, in the Badger Spring country; 1N, in the Lava Beds; and 1C, in the Pine Creek region of the Warner Mountains. Clear Lake reservoir, in the northwestern part of the forest, is a Federal bird refuge. No hunting is permitted in either State or Federal refuges.

## LAVA BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

In the northwest corner of the Modoc National Forest is the famous Lava Beds National Monument. The monument was proclaimed by President Coolidge in 1925, and is administered by the United States Forest Service. Here, centuries ago, flaming volcanoes belched forth their streams of liquid fire. The cooling process left formations of a grotesque and fantastic nature and created numerous caves.



A group of chimneys in the Lava Beds National Monument

The Lava Beds National Monument is accessible by automobile from Klamath Falls, Oreg., or from Alturas and Lookout, Calif., the main caves region being traversed by a road running approximately southeast and

Respect farmers' and stockmen's property. Don't disturb stock by camping too close to water. Don't let your dogs run stock. Close gates after you. Put yourself in the farmer's place—if you respect his rights, he will not regard you as an outlaw.



northwest. The entire lava beds country is of mesalike formation, breaking here and there into buttes or cinder cones several hundred feet high. Varicolored rock, blossoming plants and shrubs, relieved here and there by clumps of pine or juniper, give the landscape a not unpleasing aspect, the plant life forming a grateful contrast to the frowning masses of cinders and lava. Here are found hundreds of caves of unusual structure and appearance, many of them containing pools of clear, sweet water; others, rivers of solid ice, some of which never melt.



F-187995

Entrance to Caldwell Ice Cave, Lava Beds National Monument

At Indian Well, where a public camp ground has been established, is a cave from which the Indians have obtained water for centuries. Labyrinth Cave is a maze of tunnels and galleries, with a main passageway almost 2 miles long. Skull Cave has a domed roof 100 feet high, and was so named because many skeletons of the now extinct Bighorn were found there. In Crystal Cave the walls and ceilings of the vaulted rooms are adorned with frost crystals. The Catacombs Cavern, the most beautiful cave in the region, has been sculptured by nature so that it resembles an ancient cathedral—the roof buttressed by beautiful massive columns, the walls and ceilings covered by a

During seasons of unusual fire hazard, smoking is prohibited on national forest lands, except in camps and at places of habitation. Where necessary, parts or all of the forest may be closed to public use and travel. Watch for “no smoking” and “closure” signs.





Hanging Bridge in Skull Cave, Lava Beds National Monument

delicate corallike formation traced in a thousand fanciful designs. Sentinel Cave has lifelike rock figures guarding its passageway. Sunshine Cave, Ship Cavern, Chocolate Bridge, Antelope Well, Painted Cave, Great Ice River, Bearpaw, Jove's Thunderbolt, and many other formations are of more than usual interest, some peculiarity in structure or appearance giving them their names. Almost 150 caves have been discovered and more or less explored. Many caves have two or more entrances and are several stories in depth. Some of them are adorned with giant icicles and stalagmites or stalactites of striking appearance. Here and there throughout the region fumaroles, or vents, are found, some of them going down into the earth to unknown depths. One can drive to the entrances of many of the caves; to reach others involves a hike of from one-half to a mile or more.

Be a real sportsman. There is more honor in giving the game a square deal than in getting the limit.





The forests of the Lava Beds region, Modoc National Forest

The area included within the Lava Beds National Monument was the home of fierce Indian tribes centuries before the coming of the white man, and one finds evidences of their occupancy of the territory in the Indian writings on the entrances and walls of some of the caves. These painted pictographs were decipherable by the Indians found here when the first white men came. However, on the east shore of Tule Lake, now receded and dry, pictographs are found inscribed on the face of a peculiarly shaped bluff which are still



The handwriting of a vanished race. Indian pictographs on the cliffs near Tule Lake, Lava Beds National Monument

a puzzle to the archæologists. These are deeply carved in the solid rock and constitute a maze of figures extending as high as 12 feet and reaching along the face of the cliff for hundreds of yards. Many of the figures are utterly unlike the writings of other tribes formerly inhabiting northern California and southern Oregon, and the Indians who occupied the region in the 50's stated that they were placed there by a race long since vanished. Large numbers of these carvings, which are etched in with ocher and black, are apparently as clear and distinct to-day as when they were inscribed by the unknown artists.



## BATTLEFIELDS OF THE MODOC INDIAN WAR

In 1872-73 the Modoc Lava Beds region was the central scene of the Modoc Indian War. On a rocky promontory, now known as Captain Jack's Stronghold, Captain Jack, a renegade Modoc Indian, with his band of followers, took refuge after an orgy of murder and pillage in the nearby Oregon settlements. Here, with a total of only 71 fighting men gathered from various tribes, Captain Jack defied for months an army of soldiers and volunteers. Almost daily battles were fought, and shells rained into the natural fortress for days before the Indians were finally driven into the open and killed or captured.



Schonchin Butte, one of the larger cinder cones in the Lava Beds National Monument

Pieces of rotting leather, empty cartridge shells, and fragments of soldiers' accoutrements are still to be found in the region and give evidence of the fierce struggle of over half a century ago. Rude rock forts, used by soldiers and Indians alike, and now overgrown with sage and bitterbrush, mark the scene of the fighting. A wooden cross and a fitting monument recently erected by patriotic citizens mark the spot where General Edward R. S. Canby, the commander-in-chief of the American forces, was killed by Captain Jack. Guillem's Graveyard, where almost a hundred men were buried; Hospital Rock, a fortified position maintained for the sick and wounded; Captain Jack's Cave, from which the wily Indian leader directed operations; and other places of interest around the battle grounds, have been marked with appropriate signs by the Forest Service.

Don't shoot at or mutilate signs. They are placed for your convenience and direction.



## TO THE CAMPER AND TOURIST

The Forest Service welcomes the tourist, camper, and sportsman to the national forests. Camping, hunting, fishing, and enjoyable vacation facilities are free to all. In return for these privileges forest officers ask that the public observe the laws and regulations governing the national forests, without which these recreation grounds would soon lose their charm and appeal.

The careless acts of campers in leaving unextinguished camp fires, or in throwing away lighted matches and tobacco, often result in great destruction of public property. This is especially true in the Modoc Forest, where a large percentage of the fires in the past have been caused by human carelessness.

Camp fire permits must be secured before any form of outdoor fire, including fires in stoves burning wood, kerosene, or gasoline, may be built in the Modoc National Forest, and carelessness with fire in the woods is punishable by State and Federal laws.

During the dangerous fire season, smoking is prohibited on national forest land, except in camps and at places of habitation, and each automobile and pack-train party camping in the Modoc National Forest must carry a shovel and ax suitable for fire-fighting purposes.

As the Modoc Forest is a stock country, tourists are urged to use every care not to disturb or molest stock, especially around watering places. In recognition of the rights of stockmen, who pay for the use of the ranges, recreationists should observe the Golden Rule and treat the other fellow as they would like to be treated themselves.

**Sportsmen**—During the deer hunting season an ax and a shovel per automobile is required of all hunters and campers entering the Modoc Forest.

Under State and Federal laws, a fine of not more than \$500, or a jail sentence, may result from willful or negligent setting of fires in a national forest.

Throwing away lighted matches or tobacco, or other burning material from an automobile or other moving vehicle is prohibited by State law.





**PETER SCHONCHIN**

**The last Indian survivor of the Modoc War of 1872-73**

A number of fine camping grounds on the Modoc Forest are on private land, and it is a special concession on the part of the owners that camping is allowed thereon.

At camping places, bury or burn your tin cans and camp refuse, be careful with fire, and see that your neighbors, too, are careful. These simple acts will add to the enjoyment of your own vacation as well as to that of others.

In California, water is the "white coal" of industry and the "gold" of agricultural prosperity.

Break your match in two—and help break the fire's back.

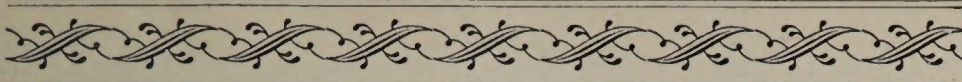


## ADMINISTRATION

The Modoc Forest is in charge of a forest supervisor who has his headquarters at Alturas. The forest is divided into five districts, each in charge of a district ranger. The rangers' headquarters are at Cedarville, Willow Ranch, Canby, and Adin, Calif., and Malin, Oreg.

All forest officers will gladly issue free camp-fire permits, give information about the region in which they are located, and, in so far as their duties permit, help to make your trip in the forest an enjoyable one.





## SIX RULES FOR PREVENTING FIRE IN THE FOREST

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**1. Matches.**—Be sure your match is out. Break it in two before you throw it away.

**2. Tobacco.**—Be sure that pipe ashes and cigar or cigarette stubs are dead before throwing them away. Never throw them into brush, leaves, or needles.

**3. Making camp.**—Before building a fire scrape away all inflammable material from a spot 5 feet in diameter. Dig a hole in the center and in it build your camp fire. Keep your fire small. Never build it against trees or logs or near brush.

**4. Breaking camp.**—Never break camp until your fire is out—dead out.

**5. Brush burning.**—Never burn slash or brush in windy weather or while there is the slightest danger that the fire will get away.

**6. How to put out a camp fire.**—Stir the coals while soaking them with water. Turn small sticks and drench both sides. Wet the ground around the fire. If you can't get water stir in earth and tread it down until packed tight over and around the fire. Be sure the last spark is dead.



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THE RESOURCES OF THE MODOC NATIONAL  
FOREST ARE FOR YOUR USE AND ENJOYMENT.  
HELP PROTECT THEM FROM DAMAGE AND  
DESTRUCTION BY FIRE.



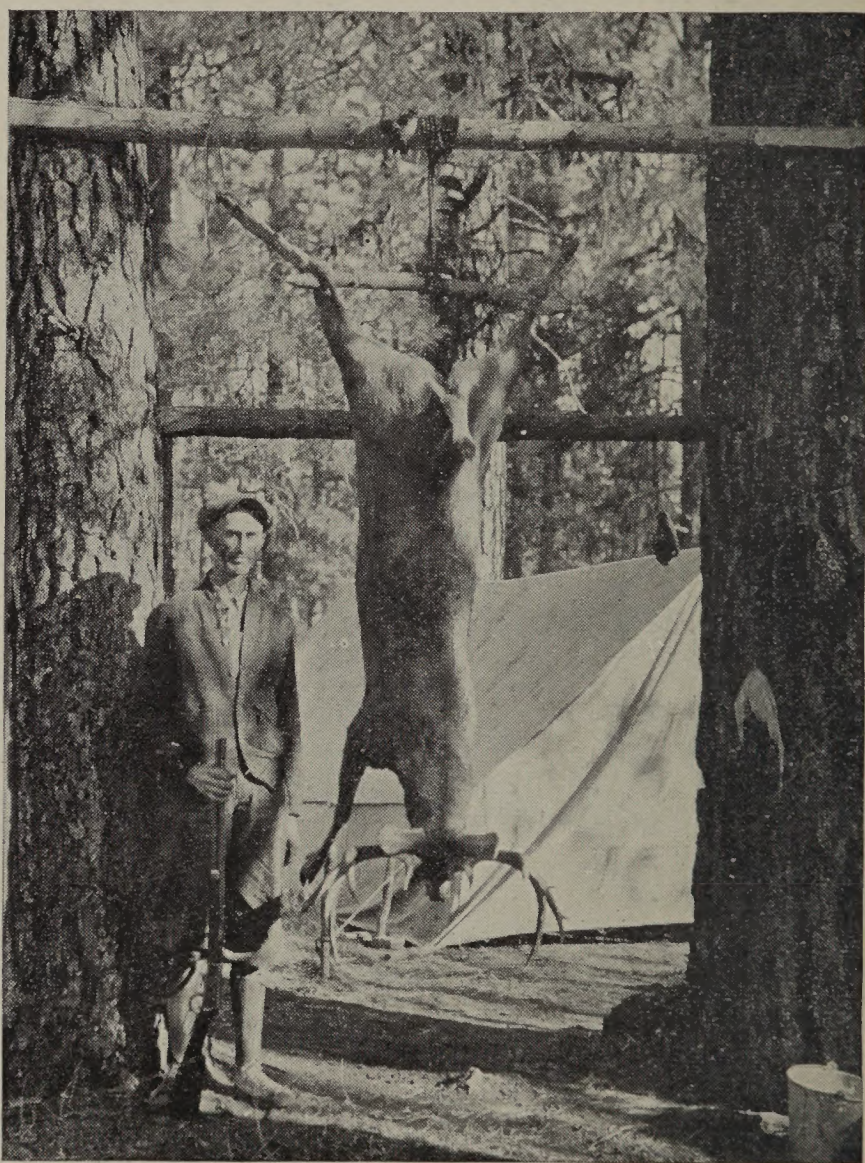
CAMP-FIRE PERMITS ARE REQUIRED IN ALL  
NATIONAL FORESTS IN CALIFORNIA. ISSUED  
FREE BY U. S. FOREST SERVICE OFFICERS,  
STATE FOREST RANGERS, AUTOMOBILE CLUBS,  
AND OTHER AUTHORIZED AGENCIES.







# MODOC NATIONAL FOREST CALIFORNIA



F-215291

## THE HUNTER AND HIS BUCK

Most of the mule deer in California are found within the Modoc National Forest

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
CALIFORNIA DISTRICT